

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00326 241957Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SSO-00 /022 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2107

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0326

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VALDEZ, ABELARDO L.), PA
SUBJ: VISIT OF AA/LA, ABELARDO L. VALDEZ

REF: (A) ASUNCION 235; (B) STATE 12339

1. PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL IN ASUNCION, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO USING SOME OF THE SECTION III (E) FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PARAGUAYAN STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF POLITICAL REPRESSION.

2. OVER THE PAST YEAR, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY YOUNG PEOPLE RELEASED FROM PRISON WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED, USUALLY FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, OFTEN WITHOUT CHARGES. TRAGICALLY, ONCE THEY ARE RELEASED THEY ARE STILL SUBJECT TO SUSPICION AND HARASSMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES. THEY OFTEN FIND IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN REGULAR WORK BECAUSE THE POLICE REFUSE TO RETURN THE NECESSARY IDENTITY CARD OR OTHER DOCUMENTS. MANY WERE STUDENTS WHEN ARRESTED BUT ARE NOW BARRED FROM ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY FOR POLITICAL OR FINANCIAL REASONS. IN SOME CASES, WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN OBTAINING THEIR RELEASE FROM PRISON, AND WE SHOULD AT LEAST CONSIDER WAYS OF FOLLOWING UP OUR INITIAL INVOLVEMENT.

3. A SCHOLARSHIP FUND DIRECTED TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE COULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO STUDY OUTSIDE PARAGUAY
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FOR A LIMITED TIME IN AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH COULD HELP RESTORE THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE AND MAKE THEM MORE USEFUL TO SOCIETY. THESE PEOPLE SHOULD BE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LIGHT OF THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES. BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, STUDY IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE U.S. MIGHT BE NECESSARY.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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